

What is claimed is:

1. An air conditioner comprising an outdoor unit and an indoor unit provided with an indoor heat exchanger and an indoor expansion device,  
5 wherein the outdoor unit comprises:
  - a compressor for compressing a refrigerant;
  - an outdoor heat exchanger for heat-exchanging a refrigerant;
  - a four-way valve adjacently arranged to the compressor for circulating a refrigerant discharged from the compressor according to a heating cycle or a  
10 cooling cycle; and
  - a refrigerant detouring path for detouring a refrigerant discharged from the outdoor heat exchanger to the compressor at the time of a defrosting operation.
- 15 2. The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein an outdoor expansion device for reducing a pressure of a refrigerant is installed in the middle of the detouring path.
3. The air conditioner of claim 2, wherein the outdoor expansion  
20 device is an electron expansion valve.
4. The air conditioner of claim 2, wherein a heat exchanging unit for heating a refrigerant is installed in the middle of the detouring path.

5. The air conditioner of claim 4, wherein the heat exchanging unit is formed of a heat conducting coil which winds the refrigerant detouring path.

5 6. The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein the refrigerant detouring path is connected to a first refrigerant path for connecting the outdoor heat exchanger and the indoor unit by a first three-way valve, and is connected to a second refrigerant path for connecting the four-way valve and the indoor unit by a second three-way valve.

10 7. The air conditioner of claim 6, further comprising a receiver for temporarily receiving a refrigerant passing through the first refrigerant path; and a drier installed between the first refrigerant path and the first three-way valve, for removing moisture of a refrigerant.

15 8. The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the outdoor unit are arranged in parallel.

9. An outdoor unit for an air conditioner comprising:  
20 a compressor;  
an outdoor heat exchanger for heat-exchanging a refrigerant with external air;  
a four-way valve adjacently arranged to the compressor, for changing a

flow-path of a refrigerant for circulating a refrigerant according to a heating cycle or a cooling cycle;

a first refrigerant path for connecting the outdoor heat exchanger to an indoor unit;

5 a second refrigerant path for connecting the four-way valve to the indoor unit;

a refrigerant detouring path connected to the first refrigerant path by a first three-way valve and connected to the second refrigerant path by a second three-way valve for detouring a refrigerant at the time of a defrosting cycle;

10 an outdoor expansion device installed in the middle of the refrigerant detouring path for lowering a pressure of a refrigerant which flows in the refrigerant detouring path; and

a heat exchanging unit installed between the outdoor expansion device and the second three-way valve for heat-exchanging a refrigerant which has  
15 passed through the outdoor expansion device.

10. The outdoor unit for an air conditioner of claim 9, wherein the heat exchanging unit is formed of a heat conducting coil which winds the refrigerant detouring path.

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11. The outdoor unit for an air conditioner of claim 9, further comprising an accumulator arranged between an outlet of the four-way valve and an inlet of the compressor for filtering a liquefied refrigerant.